(c) No, Sir.

In pursuance of Government's commitment to further facilitate foreign investment, Government has permitted, except for a small negative list, access to the automatic route for FDI. The automatic route means that foreign investors only need to inform the Reserve Bank of India within 30 days of bringing in their investment, and again within 30 days of issuing any shares.

(d) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts in Customs Department

2724. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-items captioned 'Key Customs Department Posts Vacant' which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 26th September, 2002;

(b) what is the factual position in this regard;

(c) the details of Director and above level officers who are continuously away on deputation for over 5, 7 and 9 years respectively, at present;

(d) the justification and level of approval in each case of deputation presently continuing beyond nine years; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to recall such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-items contained a report on the delay in posting of officers against the post of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi; 2 posts of Member in Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), the post of Director General (Audit) in CBEC and to the post of Chief of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau. Re-structuring of Central Board of Excise & Customs had resulted in an increase of 26 in the sanctioned strength of posts in the grade of Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise. The exercise to fill these posts was in process on the

date on which this news item was published. Posting of officers against the vacant posts of Chief Commissioner/Director Generals of Customs and Central Excise could be undertaken only after the process to promote officers to the grade of Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise was completed. As regards the 2 vacant posts of Members in Central Board of Excise and Customs, one post was filled up on 26-09-2002 and the other post was kept vacant pursuant to an order of the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal. Steps to fill up the post of Director General, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau have already been taken and the decision of the Competent Authority is awaited.

(c) At present there are two officers who have been continuously on deputation for more than nine years, one officer who has been on deputation for more than seven years but less than seven years.

(d) Shri Jayant Misra has been on deputation as Officer on Special Duty to the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha (Dr. Najma Heptulla) from 07.05.1990 on co-terminus basis. Smt. Vanaja N. Sarna has been on deputation to the Rajy Sabha Secretariat from 10th August, 1993 and the concurrence of the Department of Revenue, as lending organisation, for extension of deputation term upto 30.09.2004 was conveyed to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 26.07.2002 in public interest.

(e) No proposal is under consideration in the Department of Revenue for recalling these officers.

Promotion in State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur

2725. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4308 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 2002 and state:

(a) the date-wise, name-wise, post-wise details of 47 applications received on medical ground by the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur;

(b) the names/designation and the basis on which 8 transfer applications were rejected;

(c) whether 12 cases considered on compassionate/medical ground were for self or dependent; and

(d) how many were SC/ST in parts (a), (b) and (c) above?